

9. THE OSPREY (*PANDION HALIAETUS HALIAETUS*)
PREYING ON A GULL

I was very interested to read Mr. D. N. Goenka's letter dated 31.10.83 which you published in the Miscellaneous Notes of Vol. 82 No. 1 as it brought to mind the memory of an incident I observed in the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, as it then was, a good many years ago.

I quote from my notes at that time: 16.8.69. Periyar Lake. Seen harrying a common sandpiper and causing feathers to fly.

I can remember that the incident occurred near to Mullakudi. The osprey 'stooped' two

or three times at the sandpiper which was flying along the shore-line. I do not know whether the attack was successful or not as the sandpiper, which was flying strongly, disappeared around a corner out of sight but I am sure I would have noted that the osprey went in pursuit of it had it done so.

As a matter of interest 16th August is a very early record for the arrival of the common sandpiper at Periyar, and that date is the earlier I recorded for the arrival of the osprey also.

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10. OCCURRENCE OF GREYHEADED LAPWING, *VANELLUS*
CINEREUS (BLYTH) IN BANGALORE

On 18 April 1984 while observing birds in a paddy field at Kodigehalli, a village close to the Hebbal campus of the University of Agricultural Sciences, I sighted a Greyheaded Lapwing, *Vanellus cinereus* (Blyth). The bird which flew past me, settled close to a Red-wattled Lapwing (*V. indicus*) in an inundated plot freshly transplanted with paddy seedlings. The bird was observed for 36 minutes with a pair of 8×30 field glasses.

The field characters of this bird agreed with the adult plumage of the species as given by Ali and Ripley (1969: 211). Besides, it was observed that the white in the secondaries of both wings was contiguous with the white of the rump and formed a wide 'V' pattern in flight. Before landing and take off, the bird spread its white tail out, exposing the con-

spicuous black subterminal band that narrowed out towards either side of the tail. The bird uttered a single plaintive *quee-ikt*, quite audible at a distance of about 10 m, whenever it took to the wings. While foraging at the edge of an inundated plot, covered with paddy stubbles and nut-grass (*Cyperus* sp.), the bird walked slowly stopping after every 2-3 steps and bent steeply to pick up some food item. When my approaches, to have a closer look, became frequent, the bird flew away with flight typical of lapwings. The bird was not seen again.

According to Ali and Ripley (1969), the breeding area of Greyheaded Lapwing spans over Mongolia, China (south to Yangtse valley), Manchuria, Korea and Japan. It winters in Southern China, India, North-East of Bihar,